

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. - 18 (Canceled)

19. (New) A battery saving method for controlling a display of a portable telephone, comprising:

providing said display with a liquid crystal display (LCD); and,

after power-on of the telephone, maintaining the LCD on until a call is established and a predetermined time period has expired since establishment.

20. (New) The method of claim 19, further comprising;

providing a backlight for the LCD; and,

if there has been no call since power-on, maintaining the back light off as long as no call is placed or received.

21. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein said telephone includes a send key, an answering key and a plurality of other input keys, and wherein the maintaining of the back light off persists unless and until one of two events occurs, the two events being pressing the send key and receiving a ring signal for call termination.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising turning off the backlight upon the expiration of said period.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, further comprising turning on the LCD when the established call has ended.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, further comprising maintaining, if there has been a call since power-on, the back light off as long as no call is placed, or received, subsequent to the most recent call.

25. (New) The method of claim 19, further comprising:
providing said display with a back light for the LCD; and,
if there has been a call since power-on, maintaining the back light off as long as no call is placed, or received, subsequent to the most recent call.

26. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein said telephone includes a send key and an answering key, respectively, for placing and answering phone calls, and further

includes a plurality of other input keys.

27. (New) A computer program product having a computer readable medium in which is embeddable a program having instructions executable by a processor for performing the method of claim 19.

28. (New) A portable telephone, comprising:
a display that includes a liquid crystal display (LCD); and
a processor configured for, after power-up of the telephone, maintaining the LCD on until a call is established and a predetermined time period has expired since establishment.

29. (New) The telephone of claim 28, further comprising a back light for the LCD, wherein said processor is configured for, if there has been no call since power-on, maintaining the back light off as long as no call is placed or received

30. (New) The telephone of claim 29, further comprising a send key, an answering key and a plurality of other input keys, wherein the maintaining of the back light off persists unless and until one of two events occurs, the two events being pressing the send

key and receiving a ring signal for call termination.

31. (New) The telephone of claim 30, wherein said processor is further configured for maintaining the LCD on until a call is established and a predetermined time period has expired since establishment.

32. (New) The telephone of claim 31, wherein said processor is further configured for turning off the backlight upon the expiration of said period.

33. (New) The telephone of claim 32, wherein said processor is further configured for turning on the LCD when the established call has ended.

34. (New) The telephone of claim 33, wherein said processor is further configured for maintaining, if there has been a call since power-on, the back light off as long as no call is placed, or received, subsequent to the most recent call.

35. (New) The telephone of claim 28, comprising a back light for the LCD, wherein said processor is further configured for maintaining, if there has been a call since power-

on, the back light off as long as no call is placed, or received, subsequent to the most recent call.

36. (New) The telephone of claim 28, wherein said processor is further configured for maintaining the LCD on until a call is established and a predetermined time period has expired since establishment.